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Alnwick Rural District Council

REPORT  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
Year 1958



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1958

To the Chairman and Members of the Alnwick Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to present to you my fourth Annual Report.

This year the Ministry of Health have requested additional vital statistics, principally relating to the early weeks of infant life. On studying these figures it is somewhat disconcerting to find that the infant mortality has increased markedly, from 2 infant deaths to 8, giving a rate of 40.2 per 1,000 live births, in contrast to the previous rate of 10.47 and the national one of 22.6. Of the 8 deaths, 6 occurred within the first four weeks of life, and 4 of these within the first week of life. It is interesting to note that bronchopneumonia caused 2 deaths, prematurity 2, and one was due to the over lying of a baby whilst in bed with its mother.

The stillbirth rate dropped from 40.20 per 1,000 live and stillbirths, to 5.00, or in numbers from 8 to 1 stillbirths. It has been shown that stillbirths and deaths within the first week of life are higher where mothers have their first baby over the age of thirty, and there is an increasing danger to mother and child after the fourth confinement and in multiple pregnancies. With adequate ante-natal care this danger can be reduced or obviated and expectant mothers must attend their doctors faithfully and regularly.

In this area the percentage of hospital confinements is high, approximately 74% of confinements took place in Hillcrest, Alnwick, and Coquetdale Hospital, Rothbury.

The estimated mid-year population has again decreased, this time by 10, giving a figure of 12,460. There was a natural increase in population however, as births exceeded deaths by 53 giving a birth rate of 15.97 per 1,000 of the population in contrast to the national rate of 16.4. The percentage of illegitimate births went up from 1.6% to 5.2% of all births. The number of deaths fell by 15 to 146 giving the crude death rate of 11.7 per 1,000 of the population, against the previous rate of 12.91, and 11.7 for England and Wales.

The bulk of the deaths was again assigned to diseases of the heart and circulatory system, 67 of the 146 deaths, i.e. 46% of all deaths. This is a reduction as the percentage for the previous year was 63%. Coronary disease accounted for 35.8% of this group compared with 32% in 1957.

In the Registrar General's Decennial Supplement on Area Mortality, England and Wales, 1951, the distribution of coronary artery disease is shown graphically in regions, and the higher incidence of deaths from this cause is in the North, extending from the North Riding of Yorkshire to Northumberland in the East, and from Cheshire to Cumberland on the West side. There is also a definite gradient in social classes among men aged 20 - 64, the higher incidence being in the professional classes and lowest in the partly skilled and unskilled occupations. In this age group married women do not show the same social gradient.

It is interesting to note that the deaths in the same age group from this disease, which occurred in the district, are divided in the Registrar General's classification of occupational groups as follows:-

CLASSIFICATION	MALE	FEMALE
Class I (Professional etc.)	-x(-)	-x(-)
Class II (Intermediate occupations)	1x(3)	-x(1)
Class III (Skilled occupations)	2x(6)	4x(3)
Class IV (Partly skilled occupations)	-x{1}	1x(-)
Class V (Unskilled occupations)	-x(2)	- (-)
TOTALS	3 (12)	5 (4)

\* Figures in brackets are deaths at age 65 years and over.

Cancer was the second major cause of death, there being 30, or 20% of deaths due to this cause, an increase of 5% over the preceding year. Cancer of the lung caused 4 male deaths similar to 1957, but there was no female death due to this cause. Motor vehicle accidents caused one death and 9 were attributed to other accidents.

The infectious diseases were relatively quiet during the year, whooping cough being the major offender: 23 cases were notified. Fortunately with the high level of immunisation against whooping cough the disease was very mild and was probably much more prevalent than the number of notifications suggests. One cannot, however, be complacent and regard the serious infectious diseases as completely conquered, for serious epidemic diseases have in the past disappeared for long periods only to reappear suddenly. The danger today is that the rising generation have fortunately had no real experience of virulent infection and may tend to neglect the successful precaution of immunisation.

Although not in epidemic form, one serious infectious disease did raise its head in the district during the year. Typhoid attacked one family, 3 members being affected. The original case was the grandmother who had moved into this district to be nursed by her daughter. It was not possible to determine whether the grandmother had been a chronic carrier as she died (from another cause) before the investigations were completed.

Immunisation against whooping cough, diphtheria and now tetanus is continuing at a high level, although the number having booster injections has fallen. We must also be pleased with our record for poliomyelitis vaccination of children up to the age of fifteen years, and the parents must be congratulated for the trouble they have taken to ensure the protection of their children. It must be remembered that in the rural area transport creates serious difficulties, and the time factor is an additional deterrent. Yet in spite of these handicaps the doctors reported almost 100% attendances at the clinics at Alnwick, Shilbottle and Felton, and 89% of the children had received two inoculations by the end of the year. 42% had received their third booster dose which is normally given more than seven months after the primary dose. I am glad to say that this very good response was experienced throughout my area, i.e. North Northumberland, where a total of 11,000 out of an estimated number of 13,000 children received the vaccine, giving 85% for the area as a whole. In September, 1958, the Minister made the vaccine available to the 15 - 25 age group, but the response by this group has not been good. In the North Northumberland only 300 out of an estimated number of 7040 have had two doses of the vaccine, and early in 1959 efforts will be renewed to encourage these persons to come forward for their own protection.

Tuberculosis notifications fell from 8 respiratory and 2 other forms in 1957, to 4 respiratory and 2 other forms of tuberculosis in 1958. Respiratory tuberculosis also caused 1 death.

In my last report, I referred to the urgent need for the provision of sewerage in the villages and also of public conveniences. Unfortunately, progress has been extremely slow and the position has not been relieved. Public health nuisances continue to be reported and can only be removed temporarily.

The position at Radcliffe is still tragic, the village dying a slow insanitary death because of a previous Planning decision.

The water supply in the district was also checked and 61 samples were taken for bacteriological examination. More details are given in my Public Health Inspector's report, but it will be noted that 17 were unsatisfactory.

I am pleased to report better progress in Slum Clearance and improvement to property. A total of 123 inspections were made; 8 properties were dealt with as individual unfit houses under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957, and 6 properties under Clearance Area procedure.

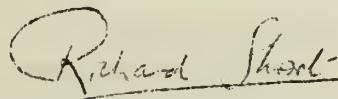
A survey of Local Health Services is included in this report and I would like to record my appreciation of the help I have received from the County Medical Officer and his staff, also from the Alnwick and District Hospital Management Committee and the staffs of the Alnwick and Rothbury Hospitals.

Finally, my thanks is due to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their consideration and continued interest in the work of my Department and I must also express my indebtedness to the Public Health Inspector and his Assistant, the Clerk and Surveyor and their staffs.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES - NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT 1946

It is now ten years since the inception of the National Health Service, and although Local Health Services under Part III of the Act are administered by the County Council I would like to give a résumé of these services and also to include the services provided locally by the Regional Hospital Board.

Administrative Arrangements

In North Northumberland from July, 1948, all the services were administered centrally by the County Medical Officer and the County Health Committee until 20th November, 1951, when an Area Sub-Committee was established for North No. 2. area. This area included the Urban Districts of Alnwick and Amble, and the Rural Districts of Alnwick and Rothbury. Certain functions were delegated to this Sub-Committee but the central administration continued. On the 1st June, 1955, the appointment of Area Executive Medical Officer combined with the post of Medical Officer of Health for the district Councils was made, and an office established in Alnwick to carry out the delegated functions. At the same time an Area Sub-Committee for North No. 1. area was established, and comprised the Borough of Berwick-upon-Tweed and the Rural Districts of Belford, Glendale and Norham and Islandshires.

The functions under the Act are now divided into two groups:-

- (1) Those administered by the County Health Committee, and
- (2) Those administered by the County Health Committee through the North Area Sub-Committees.

Under Group 1 the County functions include:-

- (A) Care of Mothers and Young Children
- (B) Midwifery and Home Nursing
- (C) Health Visiting
- (D) Mental Health Services

In the Second Group the following are administered locally:-

- (E) The Ambulance Service
- (F) The Domestic Help Service
- (G) Measures relating to the Prevention of Illness and the Care and After-Care of Sick Persons
- (H) Measures relating to Vaccination and Immunisation
- (I) Measures in connection with the Prevention of Infectious Disease
- (J) Health Education
- (K) The Management of Health Centres and other premises vested in the Local Health Authority.

North No. 2 Area

Care of Mothers and Young Children

Child Welfare Clinics are held weekly at Alnwick and Amble, fortnightly at Alnmouth, Craster, Embleton, Felton, Longhoughton, Rothbury and Shilbottle, and monthly at Longframlington and Warkworth. Five of these clinics are attended by local general practitioners, and the remainder by Medical Officers employed by the County Council.

Ante-natal clinics are held at Alnwick Infirmary and at Amble Child Welfare Centre and the local doctors see their own patients at these clinics. Elsewhere the ante-natal care is conducted in the surgery or in the patient's own home.

The Health Visitors and District Nurses attend the Alnwick and Amble Ante-natal Clinics with the family doctors and this co-operation is very commendable and to everyone's advantage.

#### Domiciliary Midwifery and Home Nursing

For the purpose of comparison I have taken the years 1949 and 1958 and it will be seen, by reference to the table below, that there has been a marked decrease in the number of home deliveries.

Districts	Deli- veries 1949	Deli- veries 1958	Total Visits 1949	Total Visits 1958
Alnwick	100	28	4714	4611
Amble	62	26	5020	2942
Edlingham	7	2	1366	1402
Embleton	23	5	2520	831
Felton	8	7	1276	1512
Glanton	-	2	-	1070
Harbottle	-	3	-	565
Longhoughton	3	4	2518	1472
Rothbury	3	5	1343	2081
Shilbottle	15	9	2666	2413
Warkworth	11	10	1662	1626
Whittingham	5	1	1191	2143
<b>T O T A L S</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>24276</b>	<b>22668</b>

It will also be noted that the total number of visits shows a slight decrease for 1958, but this is probably due to the changing nature of the work as approximately 60% of the patients visited are over 65 years of age, and the nursing care and attention they require claims a considerable amount of the nurse's time.

#### Ambulance Service

The change which has occurred in the Ambulance Service is evident by a study of the following table:-

#### Ambulance Service North No. 2. Area 1949 and 1958

Districts Served		1949	1958
Alnwick U.D.	Number of Journeys	1218	2402
Alnwick R.D.	Number of Patients	1729	7637
Rothbury R.D.	Mileage	61,116	145,557
Amble U.D.	Number of Journeys	550	1326
Part of Alnwick R.D.	Number of Patients	1216	5993
Part of Morpeth R.D.	Mileage	33,958	74,997
<b>Ambulance Car Service</b>			
Alnwick U.D.	Number of Journeys	332	3
Alnwick R.D.	Number of Patients	363	10
Rothbury R.D.	Mileage	22,224	81

Home Help Service

NORTH NO. 2 AREA	HOME HELPS EMPLOYED		CASES ASSISTED	
	F.T.	P.T.	F.T.	P.T.
1949	12	11	110	57
1958	-	70	4	187

Nearly 70% of cases assisted come into the category of elderly chronic cases and many have remained on the books for a few years. Households with chronic illness, infirmity, blindness, tuberculosis or persons living alone, are helped for as long as is necessary and this large number of cases is catered for by part-time home helps who travel between cases daily and do domestic duties for these old people so that they can continue to live in their own homes. Home helps are also supplied in households where the mother requires assistance during confinement and where there is an acute emergency owing to illness.

It is of interest to note that 110 full-time cases received assistance in 1949, as against 4 full-time cases in 1958. The majority of these cases were home confinements and the change certainly appears to be due to the increasing number of hospital confinements.

The part-time worker is still found to be more beneficial to the home assisted and the increased number of such workers denotes the fact that more women are being employed in the morning hours. It has also been found more useful to enlist part-time workers who are willing to assist a home full-time for a short period when the need arises, and the use of willing neighbours to act as temporary home helps has been the best way to meet the demands for help in villages where transport is difficult.

The householder is expected to pay for the services of a home help, the amount to be paid being assessed on a scale which takes into account the income of the householder, the number in the family and the amount paid in rent or rates.

1949	NIL to 1/9d. per hour
1958	3d. to 3/3½d. per hour ( <u>Minimum</u> charge 2/6d. per week)

(Cases assessed at 3d. per hour who are in receipt of National Assistance, maximum charge 2/6d. per week)

Home helps are paid at the rate recommended by the Northern Provincial Council for Local Authorities' Services:

1949	1/8d. per hour
1958	3/1½d. per hour

There is no doubt that the Home Help Service, together with the Home Nursing Service, is of great importance if the pressure on hospital accommodation is to be relieved.

## Regional Hospital Board Services

In the North No. 2 Area, there are three hospitals: Alnwick Infirmary, which deals with general medical and surgical cases, Hillcrest Maternity Unit, and, in Rothbury, Coquetdale Hospital, which takes medical and maternity cases.

### ALNWICK INFIRMARY:

Before the National Health Service, like all the other hospitals in the area, Alnwick Infirmary was supported by voluntary funds and effort. It has 28 beds. In 1947, there were 477 admissions compared with 616 in 1958. It is interesting to compare the work done in 1947 with that of 1958 and this is shown in the table below.

Year	Operations carried out by Visiting Surgeons	Operations (Major & Minor) carried out by General Practitioners
1947	28	272
1958	221	1,099

A study of the operations carried out is also interesting and some examples are hereby given:-

Operations	1947		1958	
	Performed by Surgeons	General Practitioners	Performed by Surgeons	General Practitioners
Appendectomy	-	25	16	-
Amputation of Breast	2	2	1	-
Caesarean Section	-	2	..	-
Circumcision	1	27	-	2
Cholecystectomy	2	1	-	-
Haemorrhoidectomy	-	6	3	-
Hernia	5	5	20	-
Laparotomy	-	1	-	-
Hysterectomy	1	-	-	-
Perineo-colporraphy	4	2	-	-
Tonsils & Adenoids	-	37	82	-

There has also been a change in the number of outpatients' clinics. In 1947, there was only one monthly surgical consultant clinic; in 1958, the following clinics were available:-

Weekly:	Psychiatric Chest E.N.T.
Fortnightly:	Gynaecology Orthopaedic Medical
3 per month:	Surgical

HILLCREST MATERNITY UNIT:

Until April, 1952, the majority of the confinements in the district took place at home, or at a private nursing home at Warkworth, or at the Mona Taylor Hospital, Stannington. Hillcrest was opened in April, 1952, with 12 beds, and by 31st December, 1952, 128 mothers were delivered. In 1953, there were 303 confinements, and, in 1958, 423.

COQUETDALE HOSPITAL, ROTHBURY:

This hospital was opened in January, 1947, and previously had been used as a convalescent home. In 1947, 75 general patients were admitted and 25 midwifery cases. There were no clinics. In 1958, 193 patients were admitted of whom 79 were aged sixty-five or over. 28 mothers were confined.

Out-patients' clinics available during 1958 were as follows:-

Weekly:	Ante-Natal
Monthly:	Gynaecology Orthopaedic

The following table shows the number of live births occurring at Hillcrest Maternity Unit, Alnwick, and Coquetdale Maternity Hospital, Rothbury, in 1958, with the districts of parents:-

District	Hillcrest Maternity Unit, Alnwick.	Coquetdale Maternity Hospital, Rothbury.
Alnwick Urban	85	-
Alnwick Rural	135	5
Amble Urban	50	-
Rothbury Rural	8	67
Ashington	8	32
Bedlington	8	28
Bellingham	-	11
Belford	34	-
Blyth	3	6
Castle Ward	1	7
Durham	1	-
Glendale	11	2
Gosforth	1	1
Jarrow	1	-
Longbenton	-	1
Mere & Tisbury (Wilts)	-	1
Morpeth Urban	6	48
Morpeth Rural	51	52
Newburn	-	1
Newbiggin	3	18
Norham	1	-
Seaton Valley	6	1
South Shields	1	-
Sunderland	-	1
Stakeford	1	-
Tynemouth	1	-
West Hartlepool	1	-
Whitley Bay	1	-
 TOTALS:	418	282
 TOTAL STILLBIRTHS:	5	4

GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district is 92,964 acres.

The number of inhabited houses is 4,094 and the number of new houses completed during the year is 16.

The rateable value is £103,016 and the sum represented by a penny rate is £413.

The estimated mid-year population is 12,460 and this figure is taken when calculating the Birth and Death rate.

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	105	85	190
Illegitimate	4	5	9
Totals	<u>109</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>199</u>

Birth rate per 1,000 of the population 15.97

Still Births

Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths 5.00  
 Total of live and stillbirths 200  
 Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births 4.52

Death Rate of Infants Under Four Weeks

Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) 30.15

Infant Deaths Under One Year

Legitimate	5	3	8
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) 40.20  
 Legitimate infants (per 1,000 leg. live births) 42.10  
 Illegitimate infants (per 1,000 illeg. live births) Nil

Deaths from Measles Nil  
 Deaths from Whooping Cough Nil  
 Deaths from Diarrhoea Nil

Deaths

<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
86	60	146

Death rate per 1,000 of the population 11.71  
 Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis Nil  
 Deaths from Other Puerperal Causes Nil  
 Deaths from Cancer 30

Table 1

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	1	-	1
Tuberculosis (Other)	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	5	4	9
"    "    Lung, Bronchus	4	-	4
"    "    Breast	-	-	-
"    "    Uterus	-	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	8	8	16
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	2	2
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	8	11	19
Coronary Disease, Angina	15	9	24
Hypertension with Heart Disease	3	2	5
Other Heart Disease	9	8	17
Other Circulatory Disease	2	-	2
Influenza	1	-	1
Pneumonia	4	1	5
Bronchitis	4	1	5
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	-	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	1	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	-	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	3	-	3
Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	2	1	3
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	4	9	13
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-	1
All Other Accidents	7	2	9
Suicide	1	-	1
Homicide and Operations of War	-	-	-
Totals	<u>86</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>146</u>

Table 2

INFANT MORTALITY

During the year ended 31st December, 1958.

Cause of Death	Age	Place of Death
Atelectasis	30 mins.	Preston Hospital, North Shields.
Extreme Prematurity	45 mins.	Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle.
Broncho-pneumonia	4 days	Leazes Babies Hospital, Newcastle.
Spina Bifida	5 days	Hillcrest Maternity Hospital, Alnwick.
Uraemia	12 days	Jesmond.
Asphyxia due to inhalation of vomit	3 weeks	Home
Asphyxia due to over- laying whilst in bed with his mother	1 month	Home
Broncho-pneumonia	11 months	Home

BIRTH RATE AND INFANT MORTALITY  
1921-1938 and 1950-1958

YEAR	Birth Rate per 1,000 population	Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births	Infant Mortality England & Wales
1921	17.68	77.60	83
1922	19.55	69.26	77
1923	18.43	60.60	69
1924	17.50	68.10	75
1925	18.21	44.05	75
1926	17.54	51.40	70
1927	15.61	73.90	69
1928	15.43	61.80	65
1929	13.35	65.40	74
1930	15.33	55.80	60
1931	14.68	71.40	66
1932	14.04	45.80	65
1933	11.97	67.50	64
1934	12.58	58.40	59
1935	13.24	56.20	57
1936	14.10	87.70	59
1937	12.99	95.50	58
1938	12.52	78.90	-
1950	16.20	21.00	30
1951	15.00	27.90	30
1952	13.30	19.10	28
1953	14.90	11.50	27
1954	16.60	24.60	25
1955	15.00	15.15	24.9
1956	14.22	28.08	24.9
1957	15.31	10.47	23.1
1958	15.97	40.20	22.5

INFANT MORTALITY

Death rates at ages under 1 year per 1,000 live births in Alnwick Rural District and England & Wales, 1921 - 1938 and 1950 - 1958.

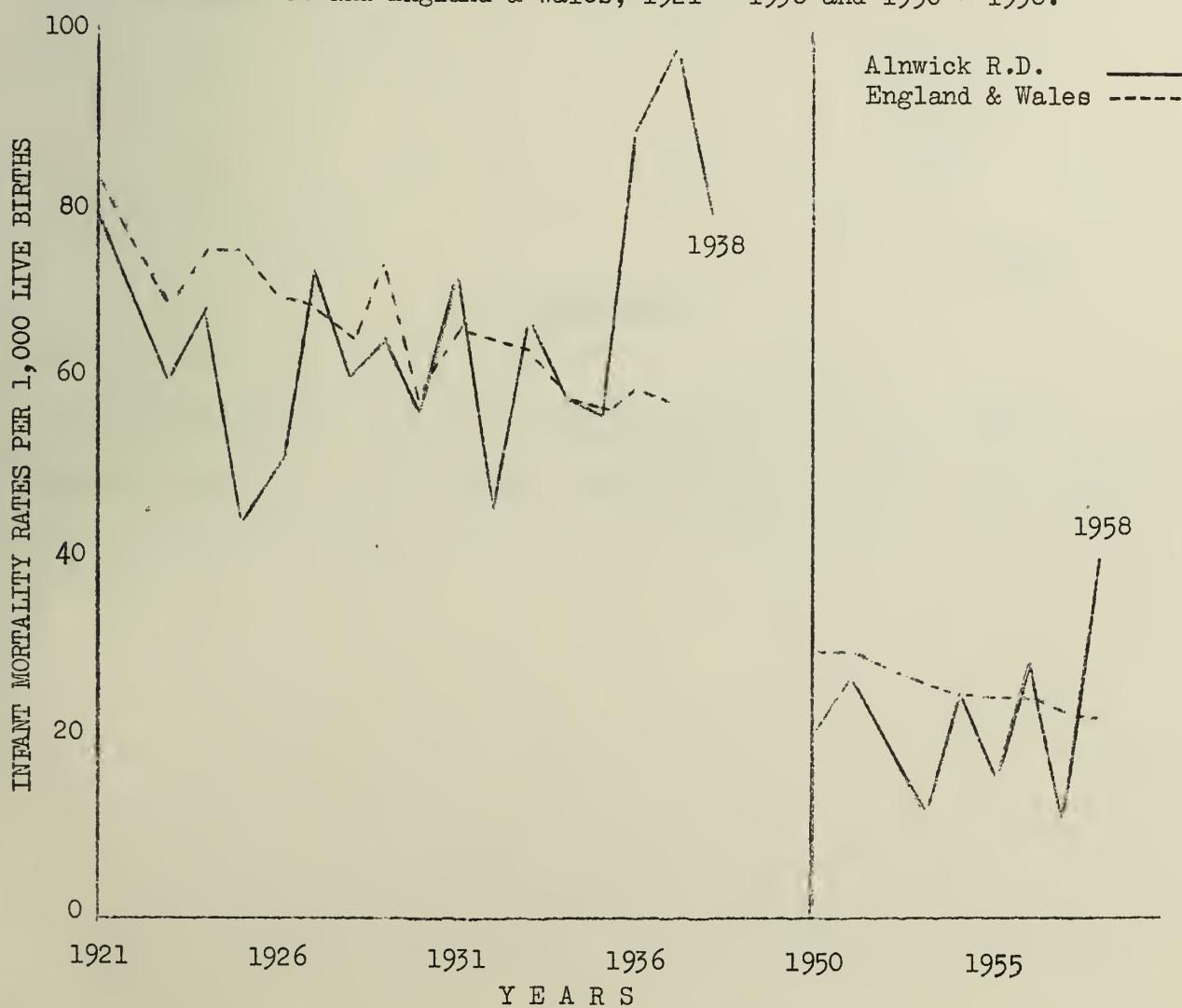


Table 4

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	5
Whooping Cough	23
Diphtheria	-
Measles	3
Pneumonia	2
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	-
Enteric Fever	3
Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Dysentery	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-
Puerperal Sepsis	-
Smallpox	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-
Erysipelas	2
Food Poisoning	1

Table 5

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
11-15	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
26-30	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
36-40	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
46-50	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
51-55	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 +	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	3	-	2	1	-	-	-
Grand Totals	4	2			1			

Table 6

IMMUNISATION

Triple Antigen			Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisations					Secondary (Reinforcing) Injections		
Under 1	1-4	Total	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-14	Total	1-4	5-14	Total
57	19	76	88	12	2	1	103	54	57	111

A N N U A L   R E P O R T

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P U B L I C   H E A L T H   I N S P E C T O R.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Council,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me pleasure to present my fourth Annual Report, in which are facts and comments relative to the activities of the department during 1958.

The statistical section of the Report follows on the lines of the Report submitted last year.

The water supply services throughout the District have not altered since the last Report, but in certain parts of the District the augmentation by the Coquet Scheme is urgently required. The prevalence of rain during the summer prevented recourse to supply by water cart. A commencement has been made to systematic water sampling of all private water supplies and the results are incorporated in Table 9 at the rear of the statistical section. Negotiations are in progress with the owners to improve the unsatisfactory supplies. The adverse weather also had an effect on the caravan problem, there being less of the sporadic type of caravan dweller. The usual licensed and unlicensed sites were fully occupied, and there was also a noticeable increase in number to the problem area at Newtown Links, Warkworth. At peak periods there will be approximately 250 to 300 caravans at Newtown Links, and, unless an early solution is found to the anomalies of licensing and permission, there is likely to be serious nuisances created because of lack of proper water supply and sanitary services. A water supply to two caravan sites was proved unsatisfactory and the owners warned of the necessity of discontinuation, or providing alternative supplies. A caravan rally under the control of the Caravan Club was held at Boulmer during August, consisting of approximately 350 caravans. We enjoyed the full co-operation of the officials regarding the provision of sanitary services, site cleaning, water supply, etc., and no nuisances occurred.

There is still no advancement in the implementation of new Sewerage Schemes for Togston and Boulmer, both being vitally necessary for the improvement of housing conditions. Attention was given this year to accelerating the Slum Clearance programme. There are very few potential Clearance Areas to be dealt with and most houses fall within the category of Sections 16/17 of the Housing Act 1957. The remaining sub-standard houses, which is the real problem in this area, can be incorporated in the Improvement Grants Scheme, so that the occupiers can enjoy the benefits of modern sanitation.

For the current year the Council decided to offer grants amounting in the aggregate to £8,000 and no applicant to receive more than £1,000 in total. If this scheme could be extended there would, in my opinion, be a substantial rise in the general housing standards throughout the District. Whilst there are applications being made for conversions to the water carriage system, and is in itself noteworthy of comment nevertheless it would be better if some scheme of grants were available to make it possible, for those owners who cannot afford the extra cost entailed in the Improvement Grants Scheme, to install a complete modern bathroom with hot water supply. A large proportion of time is devoted to meat inspection and now, I am pleased to Report, that there is almost 100% inspection, except for sheep. The butchers are co-operative, particularly when dealing with casualty animals, when we are notified forthwith. The slaughterhouses are similar to previous years and we are awaiting the proposed regulations before necessary improvements are requested. All slaughtermen are fully licensed and humane slaughtering practised. Consequent upon increased inspection there is a corresponding increase in condemnations. Shops and hotels were inspected under the Food Hygiene Regulations during routine visits but I would like to devote more time to this work for a thorough assessment of all premises. This will be undertaken when time can be spared from other urgent matters.



During April the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food included this area as a Specified Area under Section 37 of the Food & Drugs Act 1958, whereby it is an offence to sell within this area any milk otherwise than under the special designations, "Tuberculin Tested" "Pasteurised" or "Sterilised". In consultation with the Ministry officials the whole of the distributors licensing was reviewed.

The Cleansing Service was again satisfactory, in so far, as few complaints were received, which is attributable to the conscientiousness of the staff. There are two vehicles eight years old and these will require replacing in the next year or two. The extent of this Service now covers the whole of the area. There are many properties without regulation type dustbins and it would be helpful if the owners were to provide proper receptacles, instead of numerous small boxes, cartons, pails etc., thus entailing several journeys to the vehicles, apart from the dust and insect nuisance caused by them being uncovered. Pest control was again administered by J. Sisterson who has efficiently carried out the full Ministry treatment procedure and the clerical work.

Following the approval of the Model Code of Construction of Petroleum Installations, a considerable time was spent on inspections and reports of all installations in conjunction with the Fire Prevention Department. Many of these are now in compliance with the Code and the remainder are in various stages of progress. Visits were made to Factories following receipt of notifications from the Factory Inspector to ensure compliance with the Acts. Further progress was made in the naming and numbering of streets particularly at Longhoughton, Felton and Craster. Parish Councils on the coast line were asked for their views on the provision of life saving apparatus in their areas and life belts and warning notices were erected at Embleton Bay, Salters Gate, Sugar Sands, Longhoughton, Link Lane, Carr Rocks, Old Waters Warkworth, Whitehouse, the Green and Elmbush Hauxley. The problem of litter was again discussed at length and it was decided to apply for permission to install free litter bins containing advertisements. After reference to the Ministry the appeal was dismissed, and subsequently it was decided to purchase and provide a limited number throughout the area, after observations were received from the Parish Councils. It does seem a pity that compromise cannot be reached between the Planning Authorities and the Suppliers on the type and size of advertising permissible, as there would be an undoubted saving to Local Authorities. Now that there is an increasing number of visitors each year to this area it is essential to provide this service, similar to the need for increased Public Convenience accommodation. During March there was considerable flooding to the village of Powburn, due to restricted flow in river and inadequate surface and foul drainage systems. This matter is being dealt with by the Engineer and Surveyor to alleviate this nuisance.

I would like to take this opportunity of recording my appreciation for the help and forbearance shown to me on many occasions by the Clerk of the Council Mr. R. Rothwell, M.B.E., and Mr. O.M. Farrell, Engineer and Surveyor. I am also grateful for the assistance I have received throughout the year by my Assistant Mr. R. Lyall, M.A.P.H.I., and Miss J. Stokoe for their willing co-operation, particularly during periods of urgency when they have not hesitated to re-double their efforts or work overtime. To the members of the Council I express my thanks for their encouragement and assistance throughout the year. Finally my sincere thanks to the Medical Officer of Health for his pleasant co-operative manner in extending to me advice, help and tolerance in carrying out my duties in this Department.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant

J.A. STAIG,



## SECTION - 1.

PUBLIC HEALTH(Sanitary Circumstances).

<u>TOTAL VISITS DURING YEAR RE:-</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Houses - Housing Defects (S.39,45,47,56,58,92,138)	52
Houses - Other Nuisances (S.39,50,75,83A,83b,92b,92c,92d.)	42
Other Premises	2
 <u>PUBLIC HEALTH ACT</u>	
Sec. 39 Drainage, Cesspools, etc.	251
" 45 W.C.'s - nuisance	-
" 46 W.C.'s - workshops etc.	2
" 47 W.C.'s - conversions	27
" 50 Cesspools - nuisances	-
" 56 Yards and Passages	-
" 58 Dangerous Buildings	-
" 73 Trade Refuse	-
" 75 Dustbins	3
" 79 Accumulations - Noxious	1
" 80 Removal of Manure	3
" 83a Filthy Premises	-
" 83b Verminous Premises	9
" 87 Public Conveniences	41
 <u>STATUTORY NUISANCES</u>	
" 92(a) Structural Defects	21
" 92(b) Animals	1
" 92(c) Accumulations, Deposits	10
" 107 Offensive Trades	-
" 138 Water Supply	61
 <u>PART V</u>	
Infectious Disease	4
Food Poisoning	11
Sec.259 Watercourses, ditches, etc.	17
" 268 Tents, Vans & Sheds.	37
 <u>FOOD &amp; DRUGS</u>	
Bakehouses	2
Butchers	14
Fried Fish Shops	2
Ice Cream	-
Meat Preparation Rooms	5
Public Houses, Inns, Hotels, etc.	8
Restaurants, Cafes	6
Slaughterhouses	16
School Canteens	2
Kippering Sheds	6
Mineral Waters	3
Other Food Premises	3
 <u>MEAT &amp; FOOD INSPECTION</u>	
Shops etc.	11
Slaughterhouses	757
 <u>MILK &amp; DAIRIES</u>	
Distributors, dealers, Pasteurisers, etc.	8
 <u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>	
<u>INTERVIEWS</u>	138
 <u>FACTORIES</u>	
Non Industrial Premises (Offices etc.)	-
Factories (Mechanical)	4
" (Non Mechanical)	-
Workplaces	-
Outworkers	1



<u>PEST CONTROL</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>
Local Authority Premises		-
Agricultural "		-
Dwelling Houses		3
Business Premises		8
<u>CLEANSING SERVICE</u>		
Collection		53
Disposal (Tips etc.)		83
<u>HOUSING ACT 1936/57. (INSPECTIONS)</u>		
Houses Inspected		123
Repairs (Sec. 9)		24
Demolitions (Sec. 16)		76
Closing (Sec. 18)		1
Clearance Area (Sec. 42)		80
Overcrowding		3
Certificates of Disrepair		7
<u>PETROLEUM</u>		2
<u>BEACH SIGNS</u>		12
<u>STREET NAMES</u>		4
<u>MEETINGS</u>		6
<u>SMOKE ABATEMENT</u>		2

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

Number of Public Conveniences	2
" " Part-time Caretakers	2
Moveable Dwellings - Total Licensed Sites	11
" " - " Unlicensed Sites	17
" " - " New	-

(The above figures exclude Newtown Links)

#### S E C T I O N - 2.

##### FOOD & DRUGS.

###### Licences or Registrations

Slaughterhouses	7
Slaughtermen	22
Ice Cream Premises	38
" " Manufacturers	Nil
Milk (Special Designations)	
" Tuberculin Tested Raw	6
" Pasteurised	18
" Sterilised	6
" Distributors	20

###### Food Inspection

Sec. 9 Canned Goods	-	220 Tins
Meat	-	21 Tins
Milk	-	26 Tins
Vegetables (Green)	-	56 lbs.



S E C T I O N - 3.

HOUSING.

(General)

Total No. of Houses in District	4136
New Houses (1958) - Local Authority	7
" " " - Other Housing Authorities	1
" " " - Private Persons	12
Total number of Council houses to date	755

Housing Act 1936/57.

Houses Demolished in Clearance Areas	Nil
" " not in Clearance Areas	Nil
Unfit Houses closed - Section 16 Procedure	3
" " Licenced for temporary use	Nil
Houses permanently discontinued as dwellings	Nil

Improvement Grants 1949.

(1) Applications submitted to L.A. (1958)	42
(2) Applications rejected	5
(3) Applications approved	33
(4) Total number approved since inception of scheme.	199
(5) Hill Farming & Livestock Rearings Act (1946/54) for the year 1958.	Nil

Public Health Act 1936.

No. of conversions to water closets	25
No. of applications in 1958	21

Review of Existing Unfit Houses (1958)

Total number condemned	175
" " occupied	70
" " empty	91
" " partly demolished	14

S E C T I O N - 4.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1949.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	3	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	45	21	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority excluding out-Sites workers' premises)	2 (Bldg. 53)	4	-
	<u>TOTAL</u>	28	2



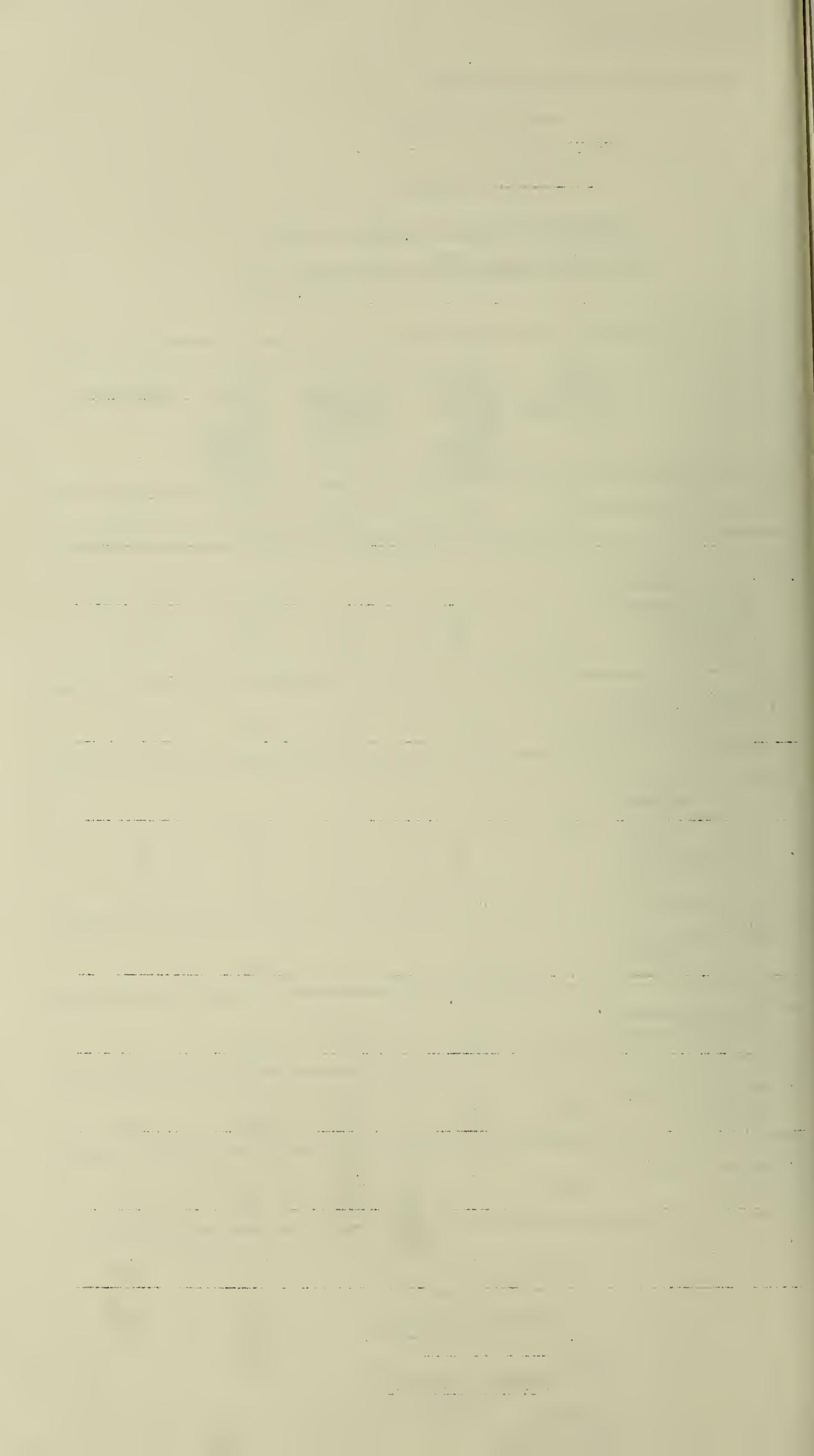
## 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND - 8.

S E C T I O N - 5.PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949.REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1959.

	<u>(1) Local Authority</u>	<u>(2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)</u>	<u>(3) All other Business Premises</u>	<u>(4) Total of Columns (1), (2) &amp; (3)</u>	<u>(5) Agricultural</u>
1. No. of Properties	39	3262	350	3651	813
2. No. of Properties inspected					
(a) Notifications	-	81	7	88	Nil
(b) Survey	39	60	27	126	152
(c) Otherwise	-	29	11	40	8
3. Total Inspection & Re-Inspections	54	180	43	277	179
4. No. of Properties Infested					
(a) Rats {Major}	8	7	2	17	7
{Minor}	26	75	5	106	46
(b) Mice {Major}	-	2	-	2	4
{Minor}	-	18	-	18	10
5. No. of Infested Properties	34	102	7	143	1
6. Total Treatment and Re-Treatments	81	169	7	257	2
7. No. of Section 4 Notices	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8. No. of "Block" Controls	31	-	-	31	-

S E C T I O N - 6.CLEANSING SERVICE.

Staff	8
Vehicles (side loading -	
7. Cu. yds.)	- 4
Districts	4
Refuse Tips	10



## SECTION - 7.

MEAT

	Cattle Excluding Cows			Sheep & Lambs			Pigs	Horses
		Cows	Calves					
Number Killed (if known)	990	1	30	2822	569	Nil		
Number Inspected	990	1	30	2613	569	Nil		
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci								
Whole carcases condemned	3	Nil	1	2	Nil	Nil		
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	254	Nil	Nil	17	57	Nil		
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than cysticerci & Tuberculosis	25.6%	Nil	.3%	.7%	10.1%	Nil		
Tuberculosis only								
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil		
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	15	Nil	Nil	Nil	17	Nil		
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.5%	Nil	Nil	Nil	3%	Nil		
Cysticercosis - Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6							
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2							
Generalised and Totally Condemned		Nil						



MEAT CONDEMNED DURING 1958.

<u>Disease or Condition</u>	<u>Whole Carcasses</u>				<u>Part Carcasses</u>				<u>Weight in lbs.</u>
	C	S	P	C	C	S	P	C	
Abscesses					4				43
Actinomycosis					1				21
Angiomata					4				46
Cirrhosis					62				660
Cyst. Bovis					6				168
Fascioliasis					146				1752
Fevered & Ill Set				1	3				71
Injuries & Bruising					3	2			78
Leukaemia	1								569
Oedema		1		1					150
Parasites					20	14	12		206
Pericarditis	1								591
Pleurisy					5		6		41
Pneumonia					9		37		126
Septicaemia	1				15				619
Tuberculosis					15		17		366
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>5507</b>

ANIMALS KILLED, AND PERCENTAGE AFFECTED WITH

TUBERCULOSIS, CYSTICERCI AND OTHER

DISEASES

YEARS 1956 TO 1958.

	<u>Cattle</u> <u>Excluding</u> <u>Cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u> <u>and</u> <u>Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed 1956	838	3	18	2931	289
" " 1957	986	-	48	2365	396
" " 1958	990	1	30	2822	569
Number Inspected					
1956	579	-	7	1342	101
" " 1957	883	-	23	1885	295
" " 1958	990	1	30	2613	569
Percentage of the Number Inspected	1956 30.8	-	27.1	.49	4.
Affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci	1957 28.	-	4.4	.8	6.7
1958 25.6	-	.3	.7		10.1
Percentage of the Number inspected	1956 2.42	-	-	-	2.
affected with Tuberculosis	1957 1.5	-	-	-	.3
1958 1.5	-	-	-	-	3.
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcasses of	1956 -	-	-	-	-
which some part	1957 .68	-	-	-	-
or organ was condemned	1958 .6	-	-	-	-



STREET NAMING OF NUMBERINGVillages not commenced

Acklington	Lesbury
Boulmer	Newton (High & Low)
Christon Bank	Powburn
Denwick	Rock
Edlingham	Rennington
Eglingham	South & North Charlton.
Embleton	

BEACH SIGNS & LIFEBOYS.

No. of Signs	=	11
No. of Lifebuoys	=	14

PETROLEUM REGULATIONS.

No. of Licensed Installations	=	88
No. of New Licences	=	2

## SECTION - 9.

WATER SAMPLING.Classification of Non Chlorinated Piped Supplies.

Class 1.	Excellent	31
Class 2.	Satisfactory	12
Class 3.	Suspicious	1
Class 4.	Unsatisfactory	17
Total number of samples		61

Total number of supplies		33
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## SECTION - 10.

<u>Individual Unfit Houses</u>	<u>No. of Houses</u>
Sec. 16 - Undertakings not to re-let	= 6
Sec. 17 - Demolition Orders	= 1
Sec. 18 - Closing Order (Whole Bldg.)	= 1
Sec. 18 - Closing Order (Part Bldg.)	= 0

Clearance Areas

Sec. 45 - Clearance Orders	- 6
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